AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) A schema generator, comprising:

a computer readable storage medium;

computer software stored on the computer readable storage medium and operable to:

parse a plurality of transaction definitions for a software system, wherein each transaction definition comprises one or more parameters; and

generate, in response to parsing the plurality of transaction definitions, a plurality of schema definitions for at least a portion of the parsed transaction definitions, wherein the schema definitions are written in a self-describing language;

wherein a first schema definition is operable to map the one or more parameters associated with a first transaction definition to a first document written in the self-describing language; and

wherein a second schema definition is operable to map a second document written in the self-describing language to the one or more parameters associated with a second transaction definition.

2. (Previously presented) The schema generator of Claim 1, wherein the self-describing language comprises Extensible Markup Language (XML) or any version thereof.

3. (Previously presented) The schema generator of Claim 1, wherein the self-describing language comprises HyperText Markup Language (HTML) or any version thereof.

4. (Original) The schema generator of Claim 1, wherein the self-describing language comprises a language that employs hypertext.

5. (Previously presented) The schema generator of Claim 1, wherein the software system comprises an Information Management System (IMS).

6. (Original) The schema generator of Claim 1, wherein the transaction definitions are associated with a message format service.

7. (Previously presented) The schema generator of Claim 6, wherein the self-describing language comprises Extensible Markup Language (XML) or any version thereof.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for generating a plurality of schema definitions, comprising:

parsing, in a computer, a plurality of transaction definitions for a software system, wherein each transaction definition comprises one or more parameters; and

generating, by the computer, in response to parsing the plurality of transaction definitions, a plurality of schema definitions for at least of portion of the parsed transaction definitions, wherein the schema definitions are written in a self-describing language;

wherein a first schema definition is operable to map the one or more parameters associated with a first transaction definition to a first document written in the self-describing language; and

wherein a second schema definition is operable to map a second document written in the self-describing language to the one or more parameters associated with a second transaction definition.

9. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 8, wherein the self-describing language comprises Extensible Markup Language (XML) or any version thereof.

10. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 8, wherein the self-describing language comprises HyperText Markup Language (HTML) or any version thereof.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 8, wherein the transaction definitions are associated with a message format service.

12. (Currently Amended) A transaction processing system comprising:

a computer readable storage medium to store first and second schema definitions generated based on transaction definitions of transactions at a target system, wherein the first schema definition is to map one or more parameters associated with a first of the transaction definitions to a document written in a self-describing language, and wherein the second schema definition is to map a document written in the self-describing language into one or more parameters associated with a second of the transaction definitions;

one or more ~~processing units operable to execute:~~processors;

a software service ~~operable~~ executable on the one or more processors to receive a transaction request from a requestor and to generate a first object associated with the transaction request;

an object generator ~~operable~~ executable on the one or more processors to convert the first object into a first document written in [[a]]the self-describing language; and

a document generator ~~operable~~ executable on the one or more processors to convert the first document into a first transaction message according to [[a]]the first schema definition associated with a first transaction type determinable from the first document, wherein the first transaction message is to be sent to the target system;

wherein the document generator is executable to further receive, from the target system, a response message that is responsive to the first transaction message, and convert the response message into a second document according to the second schema definition, wherein the second document is written in the self-describing language;

wherein the object generator is executable to further generate a second object from the second document; and

wherein the software service is executable to use the second object to provide, to the requestor, data responsive to the transaction request.

13. (Previously presented) The transaction processing system of Claim 12, wherein the self-describing language comprises Extensible Markup Language (XML) or any version thereof.

14. (Previously presented) The transaction processing system of Claim 12, wherein the self-describing language comprises HyperText Markup Language (HTML) or any version thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) The transaction processing system of Claim 12, wherein the transaction generator is further ~~operable~~ executable to send the first transaction message to a message format service to convert the first transaction message into a format used by the target system.

16.-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Original) The transaction processing system of Claim 12, wherein the software service comprises a web service and wherein the definition of the first object has been published in a registry.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a transaction, comprising:

storing first and second schema definitions generated based on transaction definitions of transactions at a target system, wherein the first schema definition is to map one or more parameters associated with a first of the transaction definitions to a document written in a self-describing language, and wherein the second schema definition is to map a document written in the self-describing language into one or more parameters associated with a second of the transaction definitions;

receiving, by a computer, a transaction request from a requestor;

generating, by the computer, a first object associated with the transaction request;

converting, by the computer, the first object into a first document written in [[a]]the self-describing language; [[and]]

converting the first document into a first transaction message according to [[a]]the first schema definition associated with a first transaction type determinable from the first document;

sending the first transaction message to the target system;

receiving, from the target system, a response message that is responsive to the first transaction message;

converting the response message into a second document according to the second schema definition, wherein the second document is written in the self-describing language;

generating a second object from the second document; and

using the second object to provide, to the requestor, data responsive to the transaction request.

23. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 22, wherein the self-describing language comprises Extensible Markup Language (XML) or any version thereof.

24. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 22, wherein the self-describing language comprises HyperText Markup Language (HTML) or any version thereof.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 22, further comprising:

sending the first transaction message to a message format service to convert the first transaction message into a format used by the target system.

26.-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Original) The method of Claim 22, wherein the first object is generated by a web service and wherein the definition of the first object has been published in a registry.